

JAPANESE WAR AGAINST CHINA LOOMS NEAR

Seizure of Steamer From
Nippon Is Climax
to Series of Dif-
ferences.

English Public Opinion
Alienated by Ally's
Aggressiveness and
Threat by Okuma.

LONDON, March 5.—War is unquestionably imminent between China and Japan. High officials are at last officially admitting that there is every appearance of a disposition on Japan's part to force a quarrel in China. The incident of the Chinese seizure of the Japanese steamer Tatsu Maru seems trivial. Considering it as the culmination, however, of a series of still unsettled misunderstandings over territorial and other really important matters, it assumes a serious aspect.

The Mikado's attitude has made even the Tatsu Maru controversy one which it would be hard to adjust amicably. No one familiar with the circumstances doubts that the steamer was seized to make a surreptitious landing of arms for Chinese rebels. Though consigned to Macao merchants, it is not thought the cargo was intended for them. A large part of the shipment was not even manifested.

China Acted Courteously.

The Chinese acted with perfect courtesy. They offered to submit the dispute to a mixed court, and, on meeting with a peremptory refusal, began what has been a very fairly conducted inquiry of their own.

Just why China should have agreed to release the Tatsu Maru, apologize for the seizure and pay indemnity on February 23, when it evidently did not intend to carry out such a pledge, is uncertain. The time having passed, however, without action, the dispute assumes an acute stage.

Foreign Minister Hayashi's announcement yesterday that Japan has issued no ultimatum, made no threats and is depending on the good sense of the Chinese government to release the vessel, express regrets and pay damages, is not regarded as relieving the tension in the least. Japan is known to have implied the gravest threats by the dispatch of a cruiser to Canton to enforce its demand and it is not denied that disregard of them will be deemed a casus belli.

Wanted to Divert Attention.

The Mikado's motives seem reasonably clear. For one thing he and his advisers probably think a foreign war would take attention from the shocking conditions of trade, finance and the working class at home. Success in a clash with the Chinese would undoubtedly greatly tighten Japan's grip on Manchuria.

The Mikado doubtless counts on England and to protect him from outside interference in the event of aggression against China. Still he is probably disposed to act before the American battleship fleet can reach Oriental waters.

English Not Cordial.

English public opinion is far from being as generally pro-Japanese as might be expected from the nature of the diplomatic relations between the two countries. The British sense of fair play is outraged. In the first place, by the Mikado's attitude toward what he presumes to be a weaker nation. There has been, furthermore, a strong anti-Japanese feeling growing out of Japan's overbearing refusal to permit China to build a railroad in which Englishmen were heavily interested, paralleling the Tientsin-Faumen line at a distance of forty miles.

Though the Mikado carried his point in the railway matter, his attitude is considered in England as having been wholly wrong. It is a plain expression of contempt for England, and an altogether unwarranted assumption of the extent of his own power in Asiatic affairs.

Jap Speech Rankles.

Okuma's speech at a Japanese banquet some time ago, almost openly assuring the population of India that it would have Japan's sympathy in the event

(Continued on Fifth Page.)

THE WEATHER REPORT.

The gradual advance of the South-west depression across the Rocky mountains has initiated a general snow and rainstorm, whose eastern front has reached the Ohio valley, whence it extends westward and northward to the eastern slope of the Rocky mountains. In the Dakotas, the upper Mississippi valley, and the upper Missouri valley are close to zero.

A period of general rain is indicated for the middle Atlantic States and the Ohio valley, and snow or rain for the Lake region and northern New York. The temperature will rise slowly in northern districts, but a general thaw does not seem probable within the next few days.

Steamers departing today for European ports will have fresh northwesterly winds, diminishing Friday, and fair weather to the Grand Banks.

TEMPERATURES.

2 a. m.	32
11 noon.	40
4 p. m.	41
2 p. m.	41

SUN TABLE.

Sun rises.	6:27
Sun sets.	5:57

TIDE TABLE.

High water today.	10:36 p. m.
Low water today.	4:43 p. m.
High water tomorrow.	10:34 a. m.
Low water tomorrow.	5:36 a. m.

Patent Office Merely School, Currier Says

That the work of the Patent Office, involving property rights worth millions of dollars, is improperly done; that patents have been granted which should not have been granted; and that the institution has degenerated into a post-graduate school where the graduates of technical schools work only long enough to perfect a technical education, are some of the startling statements made today by Representative Currier of New Hampshire, chairman of the House Committee on Patents.

"I say these things," declared Mr. Currier, "because I know them to be true or because I have had evidences and statements of them made to me in repeated instances."

Much Work and Small Pay.

"The trouble comes from the fact that the force which is charged with the tremendous duty of passing on applications for patents must do work in a few hours which lawyers do only in two or three weeks. The press of work is something fearful. In addition to this, the force is always changing because the salaries are so pitifully small that they cannot keep the men in the service."

"The result is that the patent examiners are, in great part, young men who have graduated from technical schools and who are working in the Patent Office merely to perfect their education. I have been told that every lawyer on the staff of the General Electric Company was at one time in the Patent Office. I have also been told that a technical school in New England had sent thirty of its graduates to the Patent Office, the young men declaring their only reason for taking the employment was to perfect a legal and technical training so that they might start out in the practice of patent law."

Increased Salaries the Remedy.

"The only remedy for this constant changing in the office, which is detrimental to the service, is higher pay. Salaries in the Patent Office must be made big enough to satisfy the men to make the work a lifelong service. The committee on Patents has such a bill now pending before the House."

"Some realization of the seriousness of the situation can be obtained when I say I have been told that recently patents which have been granted by the United States have been turned down and rejected by the German and English governments. This means that the hurried examination made necessary by the conditions in our Patent office failed to disclose that the articles were not a novelty, while the more minute examination of the foreign governments discovered the true situation, and higher pay for the Patent office employees is the only remedy possible."

MACHEN PAYS FINE TO GAIN LIBERTY

August W. Machen, formerly superintendent of the rural free delivery of the Postoffice Department, and now prisoner in the Federal penitentiary, at Moundsville, W. Va., will be liberated next Saturday at noon.

Machen has turned over to the prison officials \$30,000, the amount of the fine, which was imposed by the court in addition to the imprisonment, sentence, when he, with Samuel Groff, Diller H. Groff, and George A. Lorenz, was convicted of conspiracy to defraud the Government in connection with the purchase of Government supplies.

Machen has had nearly a year taken off his sentence for good behavior.

LUMBER DEALERS HEAR ADDRESSES

Several members of the Forest Service and of the Bureau of Entomology made addresses today at the convention of the National Wholesale Lumber Dealers' Association, which is being held at the New Willard Hotel.

N. P. Wheeler, chairman of the committee on forestry, read the report of his committee, in which he said:

"We approve the forest reserve policy of the Government in retaining the forest for benefit of future generations, and offering for sale only such timber as can be disposed of without detriment to the continuance of the forests."

He expressed hopefulness for the conservation of the forests.

BOARD OF TRADE ASKS IMPROVEMENTS IN CITY

The Board of Trade has submitted to the Commissioners the following recommendations on public order:

"That the District authorities be requested to require each public hack to be equipped with a taximeter in perfect working order.

"To enforce the regulation requiring a red light to be displayed on street obstructions from dark to daylight."

The second and third requests have been referred to Major Sylvester.

With regard to the first request the Board of Trade will be informed that the Commissioners have been in correspondence with the owner of the taximeter invention, with the view of adopting the system in Washington, but that up to the present time no satisfactory response has been received.

Senator Proctor's Son, Governor of Vermont, Would Succeed Father



GOVERNOR FLETCHER PROCTOR,
Whose Father Wanted Him to Be His Successor in the Senate.

State Executive Expected to Make Recess Ap- pointment to Senate.

Senator Proctor's sudden death has given rise to curious political complications in the State of Vermont, the outcome of which cannot be forecast.

It was the hope and ambition of Senator Proctor that his eldest son, Governor Fletcher Proctor, who is now in Washington, should succeed him in the Senate.

At one time the Senator talked of resigning for his son's benefit, but Governor Proctor, now the chief executive of the State, is practically precluded from getting the office, except as he may obtain it in contest before the Legislature.

It would be possible, of course, for Governor Proctor to leave a vacancy in the office until the next meeting of the Legislature, in October. Then he might go before the Legislature as a candidate. But the expectation is that he will make an appointment to last until the meeting of the Legislature, in October, and that when that body meets it will make a selection for the unexpired term of Senator Proctor, ending March 3, 1911.

Likely to Appoint Page.

Former Gov. Carroll Smalley Page, of Hyde Park, Vt., is one of the strong figures in the State, and in a strong figure would be probably the hardest man Governor Proctor would have to face. Yet it is deemed likely the governor will appoint him. Several other able Vermonters are looked upon as aspirants before the Legislature, and as possible appointees. They are Representative David J. Foster of Burlington and another mentioned is Judge Charles A. Prouty, of the Interstate Commerce Commission. The difficulty in his way is that he comes from the east side of the State, whereas, according to custom, the west side, or that part lying west of the Green mountains, is entitled to the place Senator Proctor has left vacant.

It is not certain that Governor Proctor will make an appointment, as he may prefer to leave it to the Legislature to select his father's successor. It is deemed possible that he will reach some sort of an agreement with Mr. Page, appointing him and allowing him to serve the unexpired term without opposition, on the understanding that Page will not stand in his way when it comes to the election for the full term, which will begin in the spring of 1911.

Wished Son to Succeed Him.

Two or three years ago it was given out that Senator Proctor intended to resign from the Senate in 1909 to leave way for his son to step into his shoes. Without much doubt, Senator Proctor had this in mind. Whether he gave it up is not known. At any rate, it was denied officially. Close friends of Senator Proctor, however, had no doubt that it was his wish that his son should succeed him.

Former Governor Page was in Washington recently. He is a strong factor in the politics of his State. He has been a member of the house of delegates, served in the State senate, was State Inspector of finance and member and chairman of the Republican State committee. He is said to be the largest landholder in hides and tallow, and is president of two banks, as well as a director in various corporations, including the St. Johnsbury and Lake Champlain Railroad.

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What Congress Did IN THE HOUSE.

The House adjourned because of the death of Senator Proctor.

The Committee on Rules considered the Lilley charges of graft against members of the House, but announced no decision.

Attorney General Bonaparte asked the House Committee on Public Lands for authority to institute suit to forfeit titles to tracts of land in Oregon.

The District Committee took no action on the gas question, but reported several measures for passage.

The Subcommittee on street railways of the District Committee will inspect this afternoon the proposed changes of trackage by the Pennsylvania railroad in the vicinity of the navy yard.

March 11 was set by the District Committee as the date for hearings on prohibition in the District.

IN THE SENATE.

The Senate adjourned after adopting resolutions on Senator Proctor's death.

SCHOOLS SAFE IN WASHINGTON; DRILL FOR FIRE

Superintendent Stuart
Told by Principals
Regulations Are Be-
ing Observed.

Doors Open Outward,
Stairways Slate, While
Fireproof Buildings
Are Urged.

A repetition of the holocaust at Cleveland is not apt to occur in Washington, think those responsible for the safety of the school children here, yet to make assurance doubly sure, measures of precaution were taken today.

Superintendent of Schools Stuart reminded supervising principals of the regulations providing for fire drills, while the District Commissioners again urged their stand that fireproof buildings and school houses easily emptied in time of necessity should be provided for the children of Washington.

"The danger of a disaster such as took the lives of nearly two hundred helpless school children in Cleveland yesterday is reduced to a minimum in Washington," said Superintendent of Schools Stuart this afternoon.

"Today I communicated with every supervising principal to ascertain if fire protection orders were being observed, and am assured that they are."

Doors Kept Unlocked.

"These orders, which I issued when superintendent several years ago, just after the Iroquois Theater disaster, provide that at no time during a school session shall the doors to a building be locked. The doors, furthermore, all open outward and there are no buildings with less than two exits, while many have more. I understand the Cleveland school building had but the one exit open."

Mr. Stuart explained further that under orders of the Board of Education regular fire drills are held in all schools, exits being made at both sides of the building. However, the basement doors must be kept unlocked during school hours, the janitors are warned.

"After the Iroquois fire," continued Mr. Stuart, "when there was agitation of this kind everywhere, nearly all of our wooden staircases were torn down and iron and slate staircases substituted. In no three-story building is there a wooden staircase. All three-story buildings have fire-escapes as an additional protection."

Reverse of Cleveland Plan.

"Another thing in vogue here which minimizes the danger is the rule of having the classrooms for the smaller children on the ground floor. In Cleveland it was just the reverse. This should never have been. For thirty years we have also made a practice of having the classroom doors open while the sessions are in progress. This was not done on account of fear of fire, but would be of assistance in an emergency."

"On the whole, I believe our protection against fire to be as good as any in the country."

Engineer Commissioner Morrow, as a member of the school commission, composed of himself, James Knox Taylor, supervising architect of the Treasury, and Dr. William Stuart, Superintendent of Schools, recently made a thorough inspection of the schools not only of Washington, but of a number of the large cities of the country. Their recommendations as to improvement in the buildings are contained in a report submitted to Congress last week.

"The parents of Washington can feel assured that their children are reasonably safe," said Commissioner Morrow today.

Doors Here Open Outward.

"The doors on all of the buildings open outward, and the buildings are so constructed as to avoid congestion in the case of a panic. It was the panic that caused the terrible death rate in the Cleveland school."

Teachers are not to lose control of themselves should there be a panic, because teachers and pupils, assured that they are in fireproof buildings, are more apt to retain their presence of mind."

Commissioner West said that in his opinion the school buildings in this city are safe. But he also expressed himself as in favor of fire-proof construction. He called attention to an investigation of the school buildings in Cleveland, which disclosed the fact that a number of the buildings contained wooden stairways.

Congress was asked for an appropriation for iron stairways and \$12,000 was given for this purpose. The stairways were installed in the Randall, Thompson and Cook schools and the Van Buren annex.

Macfarland's Views.

Commissioner Macfarland, in commenting upon local conditions, said:

"The Commissioners have been endeavoring for at least seven years to prevent such conditions as seem to have had much to do with the school disaster, and I believe that the improvements made, especially in having doors swing outward, in having sufficient exits, in providing fire-fighting and fire-escape facilities, together with the careful fire drill work of our teachers, minimize to the utmost the danger of such a disaster here."

"We are fortunate, in my judgment, in having few large or high non-fireproof buildings, and I believe that we should have no new large or high buildings which are not fireproof or rather fire-resistant."

"We are fortunate also in that most of our buildings are not overcrowded, and that we do not pack too many children into a school room."

110 IDENTIFIED IN OHIO FIRE; 162 PERISHED

Scores of Stricken Parents of Collinwood
Join Rescue Parties in Recovering
Bodies of Little Victims From
Wrecked School Building.

City and County Appropriate Money to Con-
duct Burials and Relieve Pains of the
Burned Children—Homes Con-
verted Into Morgues.

Rigid Investigation of Disaster Begun This
Morning—Specifications Show Doors
of School Ordered to Open "Out."
Governor Orders Inquiry.

CLEVELAND, March 5.—One hundred and sixty-two bodies have been recovered from the ruins of the North Collinwood School. This accounts for all of the missing, according to City Engineer Gould, of Collinwood, who was in charge of the search during the night. Of these 110 have been positively identified.

The successful search of this morning was started by Gould, who rang the fire bells and blew the fire whistle to summon all the volunteer firemen in the town to assist in the work. Gould refused to leave when relieved today, after working all night. Of the recovered dead 159 have been taken to the temporary morgue at the Lake Shore store house. The three recovered today were sent to the morgue at once.

Coroner Burke, who is in charge of the work of identification, believes that at least thirty of the dead will never be identified. The bodies are so badly burned, he says, that there is nothing left to identify.

To assist in the work of burying the dead the local board of trade has appropriated \$5,000 and the town council an additional \$5,000. This will be used to help those unable to provide proper funerals for their loved ones.

INVESTIGATION HAS BEEN STARTED.

The Collinwood board of education is investigating the cause of the fire. There has been nothing disclosed to offer the slightest proof that the fire was of incendiary origin. In just which part of the basement the fire originated is still a mystery.

Testimony at the school board's meeting showed that the flames were first seen near the front door coming up from the basement steps. This is directly over the closet, in which some girls were hiding while playing a game.

The architects scout the theory that the flames crawled to the front of the building from the furnace. Janitor Hirter testified that the first knowledge he had of the fire was from a young girl in the basement.

Hirter said:

"I ran upstairs and gave the signal for fire drill—three taps of the gong. Then I threw open all of the doors leading to the outside of the building. These consisted of two double pairs of doors in the front and rear of the building. After that I did all in my power to aid in rescuing pupils."

Testimony Conflicting.

The testimony as to which way the rear doors opened is conflicting. The plans of the school show the rear doors opening out, not in. Whether they were built according to the plan is very much in dispute. The evidence is, of course, destroyed.

The flames were shooting out of the woodwork and from the flooring around the front door when the children reached the lower hall. One of the teachers rushed her pupils through the flames to safety.

Crazed with fright, crying madly for help, the other children, however, rushed to the rear of the building in the hope of making their way out in safety through the wide doorway there.

Lakeview school had 373 pupils enrolled. Probably 350 or more attended school yesterday morning. Many of the smaller children on the first floor had already left the building before the panic, but more than 200 pupils still remained inside.

Rush for the Doorway.

These 200 began a struggle to escape through one doorway. Some of them in front tripped and fell. Others, trying to force their way out, fell upon them.

In an instant the doorway was blocked with a struggling mass of children. Boys and girls in the rear continued to fight for their lives, endeavoring to climb over those in front, but they were hopelessly entangled.

What had seemed to be a way of escape became a death trap. Children in front, only a few feet from safety, were not only lost, but they barred the way of those back of them.

Buried Under Stairway.

According to the story of one lad who is dying in the hospital, the stairway to the second floor fell in, burying many helpless little ones in the blazing debris.

Material distress has existed in Collinwood for months, due to the fact that many factories have been partially closed. Scores of families are without money or food. Physicians are doing heroic work to relieve suffering of injured children and prostrated parents, but without money many fear to seek aid.

The Collinwood council and board of trade, the press of Cleveland, and its business men are extending aid to the sufferers.

John H. Moran, chief State factory inspector, whose department has jurisdiction over all buildings, left Columbus for Cleveland this morning to make an examination of the ruins of the building. The inspection will be made within a few days.